



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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State Finalists for Presidential Awards for Excellence Announced

LITTLE ROCK — Four Arkansas teachers were recently selected as 2016 state finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

- Melissa Henry – Willis D. Shaw Elementary in the Springdale School District
- Justin Leflar – Holt Middle School in the Fayetteville School District
- Kimberly Meyer – Elza Tucker Elementary in the Rogers School District
- Amy Sandy – Sonora Elementary in the Springdale School District

“I am pleased to congratulate the four Arkansas teachers who were selected as 2016 state finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching,” Gov. Asa Hutchinson said. “Your innovation within the classroom and your commitment to equipping our students with valuable STEM skills have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for furthering STEM education in Arkansas, and keep up the great work.”

The National Science Foundation, on behalf of the White House, oversees the program that recognizes outstanding teachers who have demonstrated a commitment to professional development, innovative teaching techniques, and technology use in their classrooms.

A total of 100 Arkansas teachers were nominated. The state review committee selected Leflar as a state science finalist and Henry, Meyer, and Sandy as mathematics finalists. Arkansas’ finalists are now eligible to be considered for recognition in 2017 by the national committee.

Each year a national committee comprised of scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends up to 108 teachers to receive PAEMST awards in mathematics, science, and computer science from each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. territories, and schools operated in the United States and overseas by the Department of Defense Education Activity. Teachers who are selected as national PAEMST awardees each receive a \$10,000 award, a presidential citation, and a trip to Washington, DC, for a series of recognition events, professional development activities, and an awards ceremony.

The Arkansas Science Teachers Association and Arkansas Council of Teachers of Mathematics will honor Arkansas' four teachers at luncheons during the Arkansas Curriculum Conference Nov. 3 and 4 at the Statehouse Convention Center at Little Rock.

To learn more about the awards program, go to <https://www.paemst.org/>.

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